المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

5 September 1989

Mr Michael Marshall, MP
President of the Centenary Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Dear Mr Marshall,

On the occasion of the Centenary Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Islamic Council wishes to invite your attention to the flouting of the principles of parliamentary democracy by the Egyptian regime. Although claiming to be a parliamentary democracy, the regime has been ruling Egypt for more than a decade by emergency laws. In violation of the principles of democracy, it is holding thousands of people in prisons for demanding their rights to freedom of belief, speech and other fundamental human rights. The detainees are routinely tortured, humiliated and harassed. Various human rights groups have investigated the situation and indicted the regime, including Amnesty International whose report entitled 'Egypt, Arbitrary Detention and Torture under Emergency Powers' was published in May 1989.

We hope that the Inter-Parliamentary Union will use its good offices to prevail upon the Egyptian regime to respect the principles of parliamentary democracy, lift its emergency laws and release all its political detainees.

We also request you, as President of the conference, to circulate this letter among all the delegates.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the IPU on its centenary and to wish the conference every success.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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